RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 13th March, 2003/22 Phalguna, 1924 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock,
MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Expansion of telecom network in Andhra Pradesh

!1. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO†:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

. the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION .NOLOGY be pleased to state:

a) whether Government have received any proposal for providing system to facilitate expansion of telecome network in various regions dhra Pradesh;

o) if so, the details thereof; and

c) by when WLL system would be made available to the consumers i said regions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION HNOLOGY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid e Table of the House.

Statement

a) to (c) The Government has issued licences for operation of basic phone services to two private operators apart from Bharat Sanchar m Limited (BSNL) in Andhra Pradesh. All operators are free to deploy technology including Wireless in Local Loop (WLL), for provision of services to their customers and offer various facilities. Wireless in Loop (WLL) provides for faster roll out. According to the information

†Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri K. Kalavenkata Rao.

available such systems have already been installed in 165 Short Distance Charging Areas (SDCAs) which are typically Tehsils. The service is also available at present in 23 SDCAs to the consumers. The installed systems in balance SDCAs will be commissioned after successful completion of interconnection tests. Further, Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has drawn up plans to provide WLL system in all SDCAs by 2003-2004. In addition to BSNL, some of these SDCAs would also be covered by private basic telephone service operators.

SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Sir, according to the reply, 165 Mandals in Andhra Pradesh are covered by the SDCA system so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much time it will take to cover the remaining 900 Mandals in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the expansion of the network in Andhra Pradesh has been very effective. Now, there are about 243 Short Distance Charging Areas. In 165 areas, the WLL has already been installed. In 23 areas, it is already available to the consumers. The BSNL itself has installed in 23 areas. In 59 areas it is in the pipeline. In 161 more areas, it will be completed in 2003-2004. Similarly, Reliance and Tatas are also installing their own network. If he wants the details, I will provide them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think you should be satisfied with the answer.

SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: How much is the amount allocated for this purpose?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I can't give the figures about this particular allocation off hand. But I will certainly find out. All costs are going to be met both by private operators and by BSNL in this regard.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ramachandraiah, I take it that you are also satisfied.

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Sir, if you permit me, I will put a supplementary. otherwise, I will keep myself satisfied.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you are not satisfied, I will permit you. Question No. 322.